

**CLAIMS**

1. Method for initializing a digital decoder comprising a tuner capable  
5 of receiving, in succession, data on several frequencies, each frequency being  
able to carry a data transport stream containing forthcoming events tables  
transmitted by service providers, said method comprising the steps consisting  
in analyzing in succession the data received on each transport  
stream so as to detect the presence of forthcoming events tables and  
10 recording in a memory of the decoder a list of identifiers of the  
service providers transmitting forthcoming events tables.

2. Method according to Claim 1, furthermore comprising a step  
consisting in recording in the memory of the decoder, for each service provider  
15 that transmits forthcoming events tables, a list of identifiers of transport streams  
on which said tables are transmitted.

3. Method according to Claim 2, furthermore comprising a step  
consisting in recording in the memory of the decoder an information item  
20 specifying for each transport stream whose identifier is stored in said list:  
whether at least one forthcoming events table transmitted on said  
transport stream makes reference to a service transmitted on the same  
transport stream; and/or  
whether at least one forthcoming events table transmitted on said  
25 transport stream makes reference to a service transmitted on another transport  
stream.

4. Method according to Claim 1, in which the analysis time for the  
data received on a transport stream is a predetermined duration that is less  
30 than the period of repetition of said forthcoming events tables in said transport  
stream.

5. Method according to Claim 1, in which the initialization is triggered  
automatically during the installation of the decoder.  
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6. Method according to Claim 1, in which the initialization is triggered  
automatically on receipt by the decoder of an initialization signal.

7. Method according to Claim 1, in which the initialization is triggered manually by the user.

8. Digital decoder comprising a tuner capable of receiving, in  
5 succession, data on several frequencies, each frequency being able to carry a data transport stream containing forthcoming events tables transmitted by service providers, a central processing unit including programmable means and linked to the tuner and suitable for driving it, wherein the central processing unit is suitable for initializing the decoder by being programmed to analyze the data  
10 received on each transport stream so as to identify the presence of forthcoming events tables, and so as to record in a memory of the decoder a list of identifiers of service providers transmitting forthcoming events tables.

9. Decoder according to Claim 8, wherein the central processing unit  
15 is furthermore adapted for recording in the memory of the decoder, for each service provider that transmits forthcoming events tables, a list of identifiers of transport streams on which the said tables are transmitted.

10. Decoder according to Claim 9, wherein the central processing  
20 unit is furthermore adapted for recording in the memory of the decoder, an information item specifying for each transport stream whose identifier is stored in said list:

whether at least one forthcoming events table transmitted on said  
transport stream makes reference to a service transmitted on the same  
25 transport stream, said table then being of the "actual" type and/or

whether at least one forthcoming events table transmitted on said  
transport stream makes reference to a service transmitted on another transport  
stream, the said table then being of the "other" type.

30 11. Decoder according to Claim 10, furthermore comprising means for generating a program guide on the basis of information contained in forthcoming events tables transmitted by the service providers, wherein said means are adapted for presenting with a particular tag the services of providers whose identifier is not included in said list of identifiers.

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12. Decoder according to Claim 11, wherein said program guide generation means are furthermore adapted, in order to present the forthcoming

events of a given service of a provider whose identifier is included in said list of identifiers of providers:

for verifying in said list of identifiers of transport streams that transmit forthcoming events tables in respect of said provider whether at least one  
5 transport stream comprises an information item specifying that the said transport stream transmits forthcoming events tables of "other" type and,

- in case of positive verification:

in acquiring the forthcoming events tables containing the  
information relating to this service by driving the tuner so that it locks  
10 onto a frequency corresponding to said transport stream that transmits forthcoming events tables of "other" type; or

- in case of negative verification:

in acquiring the forthcoming events tables containing the  
information relating to this service by driving the tuner so that it locks  
15 onto a frequency corresponding to the transport stream that transmits the said service.